

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating a subterranean formation comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a permeable cement composition comprising a hydraulic cement, water, and a degradable material ~~capable of undergoing an irreversible degradation downhole~~;

(b) injecting the permeable cement composition prepared in step (a) into the subterranean formation at a pressure sufficient to create a fracture in the subterranean formation; and

(c) allowing the permeable cement composition to set to form a proppant matrix having voids in the fracture.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the permeable cement composition further comprises a surfactant present in an amount sufficient to disperse the hydraulic cement and the degradable material within the permeable cement composition.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2 wherein the surfactant is present in the permeable cement composition in an amount ranging from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein the hydraulic cement ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of calcium, aluminum, silicon, oxygen, [[or]] and sulfur.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein the hydraulic cement ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of a Portland cement, pozzolanic cement, gypsum cement, high alumina content cement, silica cement, high alkalinity cement, [[or]] and low-density cement.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the hydraulic cement is present in the permeable cement composition in an amount ranging from about 20% to about 70% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the water is present in an amount sufficient to make the permeable cement composition a pumpable slurry.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the water comprises fresh water, salt water, or brine.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the water is present in an amount ranging from about 15% to about 40% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the permeable cement composition further comprises a fluid loss additive.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10 wherein the fluid loss additive is present in the permeable cement composition in an amount ranging from about 0.1% to about 25% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the permeable cement composition is mixed on-the-fly.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising before step (a) blending the permeable cement composition and transporting the permeable cement composition to the well site.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein the degradable material ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of: a degradable polymer [[or]] and a dehydrated salt.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 14 wherein the degradable polymer ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of: polysaccharides, chitins, chitosans, proteins, aliphatic polyesters, poly(lactides), poly(glycolides), poly(ϵ -caprolactones), poly(hydroxybutyrate), polyanhydrides, aliphatic polycarbonates, poly(orthoesters), poly(amino acids); poly(ethylene oxides), [[or]] and polyphosphazenes.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the degradable material further comprises a plasticizer.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 14 wherein the dehydrated salt ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of: anhydrous sodium tetraborate [[or]] and anhydrous boric acid.

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the degradable material comprises a stereoisomer of a poly(lactide).

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the degradable material is present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 70% by weight of the composition.

20. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the degradable material comprises particles having a rod-like shape.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the voids comprise channel-like voids.

22. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the cement is a Portland cement present in an amount of from about 20% to about 70% by weight of the permeable cement composition; the water is fresh water present in an amount of from about 15% to about 40% by weight of the cement composition; and the degradable material is a poly(lactic acid) particulate present in an amount of from about 5% to about 70% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

23. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the permeable cement composition further comprises proppant particles.

24. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the permeable cement proppant matrix has a permeability ranging from about 1 to about 125 darcies.

25. **(Currently Amended)** A method of maintaining the integrity of a fracture in a subterranean formation comprising the steps of:

(a) placing a permeable cement composition comprising that comprises a hydraulic cement, water, and a degradable material capable of undergoing an irreversible degradation downhole[[,]] in a subterranean formation at a pressure sufficient to create or enhance at least one fracture in the formation; and

(b) allowing the permeable cement composition to set to form a permeable cement proppant matrix in the fracture.

26. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the permeable cement composition further comprises a surfactant present in an amount sufficient to disperse the hydraulic cement and the degradable material within the permeable cement composition.

27. **(Original)** The method of claim 26 wherein the surfactant is present in the permeable cement composition in an amount ranging from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

28. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 25 wherein the hydraulic cement comprises is chosen from the group consisting of calcium, aluminum, silicon, oxygen, [[or]] and sulfur.

29. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 25 wherein the hydraulic cement comprises is chosen from the group consisting of a Portland cement, pozzolanic cement, gypsum

cement, high alumina content cement, silica cement, high alkalinity cement, [[or]] and low-density cement.

30. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the hydraulic cement is present in the permeable cement composition in an amount ranging from about 20% to about 70% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

31. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the water is present in an amount sufficient to make the permeable cement composition a pumpable slurry.

32. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the water comprises fresh water, salt water, or brine.

33. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the water is present in an amount ranging from about 15% to about 40% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

34. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the permeable cement composition further comprises a fluid loss additive.

35. **(Original)** The method of claim 34 wherein the fluid loss additive is present in the permeable cement composition in an amount ranging from about 0.1% to about 25% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

36. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the permeable cement composition is mixed on-the-fly.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 25 further comprising before step (a), blending the permeable cement composition and transporting the permeable cement composition to the well site.

38. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 25 wherein the degradable material ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of: a degradable polymer [[or]] and a dehydrated salt.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 38 wherein the degradable polymer ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of: polysaccharides, chitins, chitosans, proteins, aliphatic polyesters, poly(lactides), poly(glycolides), poly(ϵ -caprolactones), poly(hydroxybutyrates), polyanhydrides, aliphatic polycarbonates, poly(orthoesters), poly(amino acids); poly(ethylene oxides), [[or]] and polyphosphazenes.

40. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the degradable material further comprises a plasticizer.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 38 wherein the dehydrated salt ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of: anhydrous sodium tetraborate [[or]] and anhydrous boric acid.

42. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the degradable material comprises a stereoisomer of a poly(lactide).

43. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the degradable material is present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 70% by weight of the composition.

44. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the degradable material comprises particles having a rod-like shape.

45. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the cement is a Portland cement present in an amount of from about 20% to about 70% by weight of the permeable cement composition; the water is fresh water present in an amount of from about 15% to about 40% by weight of the cement composition; the degradable material is a poly(lactic acid) particulate present in an amount of from about 5% to about 70% by weight of the permeable cement composition; and wherein the permeable cement composition further comprises a surfactant, present in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the cement composition.

46. **(Original)** The method of claim 21 wherein the permeable cement proppant matrix has a permeability ranging from about 1 to about 125 darcies.

47. **(Currently Amended)** A method of forming a permeable cement proppant matrix in a fracture in a subterranean formation comprising the steps of:

(a) placing a permeable cement composition comprising a hydraulic cement, water, and a degradable material capable of undergoing an irreversible degradation downhole in a subterranean formation at a pressure sufficient to create or enhance at least one fracture in the formation; the fracture; and

(b) allowing the permeable cement composition to set to form a permeable cement proppant matrix in the fracture.

48. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the permeable cement composition further comprises a surfactant present in an amount sufficient to disperse the hydraulic cement and the degradable material within the permeable cement composition.

49. **(Original)** The method of claim 48 wherein the surfactant is present in the permeable cement composition in an amount ranging from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

50. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 47 wherein the hydraulic cement ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of calcium, aluminum, silicon, oxygen, [[or]] and sulfur.

51. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 47 wherein the hydraulic cement ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of a Portland cement, pozzolanic cement, gypsum cement, high alumina content cement, silica cement, high alkalinity cement, [[or]] and low-density cement.

52. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the hydraulic cement is present in the permeable cement composition in an amount ranging from about 20% to about 70% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

53. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the water is present in an amount sufficient to make the permeable cement composition a pumpable slurry.

54. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 47 wherein the water ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of: fresh water, salt water, [[or]] and brine.

55. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the water is present in an amount ranging from about 15% to about 40% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

56. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the permeable cement composition further comprises a fluid loss additive.

57. **(Original)** The method of claim 56 wherein the fluid loss additive is present in the permeable cement composition in an amount ranging from about 0.1% to about 25% by weight of the permeable cement composition.

58. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the permeable cement composition is mixed on-the-fly.

59. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 further comprising before step (a) blending the permeable cement composition and transporting the permeable cement composition to the well site.

60. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 47 wherein the degradable material ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of: a degradable polymer [[or]] and a dehydrated salt.

61. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 60 wherein the degradable polymer ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of: polysaccharides, chitins, chitosans, proteins, aliphatic polyesters, poly(lactides), poly(glycolides), poly(ϵ -caprolactones),

poly(hydroxybutyrates), polyanhydrides, aliphatic polycarbonates, poly(orthoesters), poly(amino acids); poly(ethylene oxides), [[or]] and polyphosphazenes.

62. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the degradable material further comprises a plasticizer.

63. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 60 wherein the dehydrated salt ~~comprises~~ is chosen from the group consisting of: anhydrous sodium tetraborate [[or]] and anhydrous boric acid.

64. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the degradable material comprises a stereoisomer of a poly(lactide).

65. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the degradable material is present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 70% by weight of the composition.

66. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the degradable material comprises particles having a rod-like shape.

67. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the cement is a Portland cement present in an amount of from about 20% to about 70% by weight of the permeable cement composition; the water is fresh water present in an amount of from about 15% to about 40% by weight of the cement composition; the degradable material is a poly(lactic acid) particulate present in an amount of from about 5% to about 70% by weight of the permeable cement composition; and wherein the permeable cement composition further comprises a surfactant, present in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the cement composition.

68. **(Original)** The method of claim 47 wherein the permeable cement proppant matrix has a permeability ranging from about 1 to about 125 darcies.

69. – 109. **(Cancelled.)**